

REMARKS

Applicants filed a Response to the current Office Action on February 16, 2009. After the Response was filed, the Applicants discovered an ambiguity regarding the status of claim 45. On March 3, 2009, the undersigned attorney of record and Examiner engaged in a telephonic interview in which the Examiner noted the typographical errors in the Office Action Summary and item 7 of the Office Action regarding the status of claim 45. The Examiner confirmed that claim 45 should have been indicated as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because a previous Response has already been filed, the Examiner indicated that a Supplemental Amendment is the appropriate mechanism to introduce additional claims. See MPEP 714.03(a). Applicants respectfully request that this Supplemental Amendment be entered, and reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the claim listing and claim amendments presented herein are based upon the entry of the previous Response. Through this Supplemental Amendment, claims 51 through 55 have been added. Therefore, claims 30-33, 35-45 and 47-55 are pending in the present application. No new subject matter has been added.

In item 7 of the current Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 34-40 and 46-51 stand objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, claim 45 should have been objected to on the same grounds. Through this Supplemental Response, Applicants have elected to add independent claim 52, which represents the combination of claims 41 and 45 as pending when the current Office Action was issued. Through the current amendments, independent claim 52 stands in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 53-55 correspond to claims 42-44. Claims 53-55 depend on independent claim 52. Because these claims depend on an allowable independent claim, they are allowable on at least that basis. They may also be allowable on their own merit.

With regard to the currently amended claims, an effort has been made to retain all of the recited elements and features of the base and intervening claims as set forth in the previous response. In some instances, minor formatting changes were made to the previously submitted base and intervening claims. If the Examiner believes that anything has been inadvertently

omitted or if other phrasing is preferred, the undersigned attorney of record should be contacted in the hope of expediting the resolution of any such issues and the allowance of this application.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 30-33, 35-45 and 47-55 are in condition for allowance. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By James M. Durlacher
James M. Durlacher, Reg. No. 28,840
Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry LLP
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137
Telephone: (317) 634-3456 Fax: (317) 637-7561
Email: jdurlacher@uspatent.com